

REMARKS**INTRODUCTION**

Claims 1-9, 15-17, 19-22 and 26-32 were previously pending and under consideration.

Claims 5 and 8 are cancelled herein.

Claim 33 is added herein.

Therefore, claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9, 15-17, 19-22, and 26-33 are now pending and under consideration.

Claims 1-9, 15-17, 19-22, and 26-32 stand rejected.

Claims 1, 2, 3, 9, 15, 17, 19, 20, and 26 are amended herein.

No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

Claims stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, for reasons stated in the Office Action.

A second paragraph rejection may be appropriate when essential subject matter has been omitted. According to MPEP 2172.01, "essential matter may include missing elements, steps or necessary structural cooperative relationships of elements described by the applicant(s) as necessary to practice the invention" (emphasis added). The rejection suggests that claims 1 and 17 are indefinite because they omit details as to how and when a client change is identified and transmitted. However, the Applicant has not described the omitted details as being necessary to practice the invention. The Applicant has explicitly described the omissions as not being necessary to practice the invention.

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At page 9, lines 2-10, Applicant's specification notes that the message transmission can occur either automatically or in response to a client user's actions:

Subsequent to a server reconfiguration, the next time a client computer points to the server in a browser address window, an information message will be displayed in a message list on a user interface status tab 200. The alerting layer 150 will raise an alert to inform the user that configuration changes to the server necessitate a change to the configuration of the client computers. In an alternative embodiment of the invention the alert is broadcast to all client computers 14 coupled to the network 10 and a popup message will be displayed to cause the client user to be aware that the client has been reconfigured.

The rejection also suggests that the timing of transmission after identification is indefinite. However, nothing in the specification describes a particular timing as necessary to practice the invention. Furthermore, based at least on the portion of page 9 quoted above, the timing can vary and is not overly important. Furthermore, this variation is consistent with common scenarios for client-server interactions. For example, some clients may be regularly connected to the server's network and therefore able to receive a broadcasted message at any time. Some clients may only be connected intermittently and may not be able to receive a message immediately after a server configuration change has been identified. It appears that the only necessity described by the specification is that the message be transmitted some time after the change has been identified. This is recited in the claims, wherein the message has some information related to the identified configuration change.

Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to either withdraw the rejection or to identify where the specification is believed to describe the omissions as being necessary to practice the invention.

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REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9, 15-17, 19-22, and 26-32 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as obvious over Johnson in view of Chen and Li.

Claims 1 and 17

Amended claim 1 recites automatically identifying a configuration change of a server computer (the configuration change being a type of change that affects client computers that use the server); automatically identifying at least one client configuration change that is called for, by the configuration change of the server computer, for the client computers to use the server computer as reconfigured according to the configuration change of the server computer; and transmitting a status message to a client computer, the status message including an indication that a client configuration change is called for, where the message is capable of being interacted with by a user of the client computer to initiate the one client configuration change on the client computer.

The rejection cites Johnson as modified by Chen and Li. Johnson discusses a remote diagnostic system where an administrator can remotely initiate and control diagnosis of a network node (column 2, lines 21-24). Chen discusses a system for monitoring a server by placing an intelligent agent on the server and checking the status of the server as requested by a client (a browser) (Abstract). Li discusses a proxy server that provides a software module to clients (e.g., a java applet), where the module executes on the clients to inform the clients of the status of the proxy server. The combination of Johnson, Chen, and Li appears to discuss a server aspect (per Johnson and Chen) that identifies server status changes. Li is cited for pushing a message regarding such identified changes to clients.

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The rejection is traversed because the prior art references, individually or in combination, do not disclose automatically identifying at least one client configuration change that is called for by the server configuration change for the client computers to use the reconfigured server computer. The prior art combination is only a server that pushes a status change message to a client. However, there is no indication or suggestion in the cited combination that the server change is somehow related to a client configuration change. None of the prior art references appear to discuss configuration changes on a client.

The rejection is further traversed because amended claim 1 recites features related to a server configuration change, whereas the prior art combination sends a message about a server *status* change. However, one skilled in the art of administering computer systems would not consider a server's status (e.g. up, down, busy, etc.) to be the same as a server configuration change. For example, it is possible that a server's status can change without the server being reconfigured. In contrast, a change in the configuration of a server is likely to alter the default behavior of the server itself in a way that persists after rebooting, etc. Consider the Merriam Webster Online Dictionary's definition of "configuration": "... relative arrangement of parts or elements: as (1) : SHAPE (2) : contour of land <configuration of the mountains> (3) : functional arrangement <a small business computer system in its simplest configuration> b : something (as a figure, contour, pattern, or apparatus) that results from a particular arrangement of parts or components". Consider also the Cambridge online Dictionary of "configuration": "the way in which all the equipment that makes up a computer system is set to operate, or when you adjust or change a computer system in a particular way".

The rejection is also traversed because the combined prior art does not discuss or suggest claim 1's feature of transmitting to a client a message that includes "an

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indication that a client configuration change is called for, where the message is capable of being interacted with by a user of the client computer to initiate the one client configuration change on the client computer". In contrast, the client-notification feature for which Li is cited only teaches a module that informs a client of the server's status. Neither Johnson, Chen, nor Li discuss or suggest a client-side configuration change that is related to an identified server configuration change. Rather, the cited art only identifies server status changes and notifies clients of the same.

Claim 17 recites features similar to claim 1.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 17 is respectfully requested.

Claim 15

Claim 15, as amended herein, recites "in response to the change of the configuration of the server computer, automatically identify one or more client configuration changes that, if applied on a client computer, will enable the client computer to operate in accordance with the changed configuration of the server computer". For support, see at least page 7, line 29 ("what settings need to be updated on the client computer").

Claim 15 also recites that "the message [sent to the client] is capable of being interacted with by a user of the client computer to effect the client configuration change on the client computer". As discussed above, the prior art does not discuss or suggest this type of feature.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 15 is respectfully requested.

Claim 26

Claim 26 recites "receiving a notification from the server computer that at least one of multiple server configuration settings has been updated, the server configuration settings comprising settings that affect how client computers interoperate with the server computer". As discussed above, the prior art relates to status changes, not

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configuration changes, and the prior art does not concern client-side configuration changes (e.g., "displaying a list of client reconfiguration choices corresponding to the updated server status of the multiple server configuration settings", claim 26).

Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 26 is respectfully requested.

NEW CLAIM 33

New claim 33 recites "[a client] receiving ... from a server device [a] message containing an indication of a server configuration change that affects the client's interoperation with the server device; [the client] receiving user interaction with the message to invoke a wizard that uses the indication of the server configuration change to automatically identify a client configuration change that is called for by the server configuration change; and [the client] in response to user input, automatically making the client configuration change on the client". As discussed above, the prior art does not relate to client-side configuration changes. Furthermore, the prior art does not allow a configuration-change message from a server to be used by a user to start a configuration wizard on the client.

Allowance of claim 33 is respectfully requested.

DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The dependent claims are deemed to be patentable based on their dependence from allowable independent claims. The dependent claims are also independently patentable. For example, claim 20 recites "transmitting a user actuatable control to at least one of the one or more client computers that allows a client user to effect the client configuration change". The cited prior art combination does not discuss or suggest this feature. Withdrawal of the rejection of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks and amendments it is submitted that the claims are patentably distinct over the prior art and that all the rejections to the claims have been overcome. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is requested. Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the pending claims be allowed, and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner believes, after this Amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

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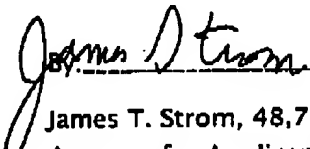
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If this Amendment is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this Amendment, including an extension fee that is not covered by an enclosed check please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-0463.

Respectfully submitted,

Microsoft Corporation

Date: 1 Sep 2005


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